

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-15

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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:HAMILTON

APPROVED BY:S/S-O:SARROS

D.CONNERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 043462

TODEP 169

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION TO LONDON MAR 5, 1974 FROM SECSTATE
REPEATED TO YOU:

QUOTE S E C R E T STATE 043462

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, IO

SUBJECT: DIEGO GARCIA

1. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR BEST ASSESSMENT AS TO WHEN NEW
LABOR GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE PREPARED TO ADDRESS AND HOPEFULLY
CONFIRM AGREEMENT TO DIEGO EXPANSION PLANS INCLUDING
APPROVAL OF GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT AND SERVICE LEVEL
AGREEMENTS NEGOTIATED AD REFERENDUM IN LONDON LAST WEEK.
WE FULLY APPRECIATE THAT WILSON GOVERNMENT IS FACED WITH
OTHER COMPELLING IMPERATIVES, PRIMARILY DOMESTIC, THAT
COMMAND PRIORITY ATTENTION. HOWEVER, YOU MIGHT EMPHASIZE
TO JACKSON, DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, FCO, THAT IN UPCOMING
CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY BY STATE AND DEFENSE WITNESSES
ON THE DIEGO EXPANSION PLANS WE EXPECT QUESTIONS TO ARISE
FROM THE CONGRESS AS TO ATTITUDE OF NEW LABOR GOVERNMENT
ON THESE PLANS.

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2. IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOREGOING WEISS, DIRECTOR, PM

BUREAU WILL, ONLY IF ASKED, TAKE THE FOLLOWING LINE IN HIS TESTIMONY TOMORROW, MARCH 6, BEFORE THE HAMILTON HFAC SUBCOMMITTEE ON NEAR EAST AND SOUTH ASIA. "WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE LABOR GOVERNMENT WOULD REPUDIATE THE FAVORABLE RESPONSE GIVEN BY ITS PREDECESSOR TO OUR EXPANSION PROPOSAL. IT IS NORMAL IN BRITISH PRACTICE, AS IN OUR OWN, FOR A NEW GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN CONTINUITY IN ITS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

WHILE I CANNOT ASSERT CATEGORICALLY THAT THIS SITUATION WILL APPLY TO OUR EXPANSION PLANS AT DIEGO GARCIA I SHOULD NOTE IT WAS UNDER THE LABOR GOVERNMENT OF PRIME MINISTER WILSON THAT (A) SET UP THE BIOT IN 1965; (B) CONCLUDED THE ORIGINAL 1966 US-UK AGREEMENT THAT MADE THE BIOT AVAILABLE FOR 50 YEARS FOR MUTUAL DEFENSE PURPOSES AND; (C) INFORMALLY APPROVED IN 1968 THE GO AHEAD FOR THE SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY ON DIEGO GARCIA." PLEASE ADVISE IF FORMULATION ALONG THESE LINES WOULD PRESENT PROBLEMS TO HMG. KISSINGER UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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